AMERICAN ELECTRIC

This book, entitled American Electric, is a project detailing the bisectional nature of small town America. In daylight, the small towns of Illinois and Indiana are mundane, quiet places. However, upon nightfall, they take on a completely different atmosphere. Sinister, private, unwelcoming, and eerie. Having grown up in California's Bay Area, these spaces are a feeling entirely unfamiliar to me, something only seen in TV shows and horror movies where "nothing ever happens here."

Inspired conceptually by the works of such artists as Joel Sternfeld and Robert Frank, and visually by Todd Hido, Gregory Crewdson, and Dave Jordano, I work to use light as a physical object and a character of the project in and of itself. These photographs were taken out train windows, alongside highways, from inside bushes and treelines, on neighborhood sidewalks, driveways, and school parking lots. Some on warm summer evenings, some in the dead of a rainy night, 60 miles from home. They serve as a direct, first-person view of what I saw, heard, smelled, and experienced on these journeys as a complete outsider.

Thank you to Nav, Finn, and Taylor for accompanying me on these trips, and my professors Clarke and Lali for pushing me to do my best.

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